

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Only claims 1-4 remain in the application.

In the Office action mailed 8/11/2005, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Keller in view of Rich et al. The Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to provide an access port in Keller as taught by Rich et al to enable one to maintain or to provide additional space for storing contents.

Amended claim 1 defines an access port in a golf bag for providing access through the body of the golf bag to the golf club compartment, the longitudinal stay and the pocket in which the lower end of the stay is received in order to facilitate repairs to the stay and the pocket and in order to retrieve articles that may have fallen into the golf club compartment through the throat structure at the top end of the compartment. Rich et al discloses a golf bag having various zippered pockets such as pockets 46, 48, 52, 54, 56 and 58. As shown in Fig. 8 of Rich et al, these zippered pockets would not provide access to the golf club compartment of the Keller golf bag for making repairs to the stay 50 and the pocket 54. Furthermore, the zippered pockets of Rich et al would not permit retrieval of articles that may have fallen into the golf club compartment of the Keller golf bag. Therefore, amended claim 1 defines an invention which is not obvious over any combination of Keller and Rich et al.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Locke et al. Amended claim 1 incorporates limitations from original claims 5 and 6 which are not disclosed by Locke et al. The patent to Locke et al discloses a golf bag having a zipper 29 for closing a pocket that extends along one side of the golf bag frame. Although this zipper 29 may provide access to the

rods 7, it would not permit retrieval of items inadvertently dropped into the golf club compartments defined by the strips 20-25. Therefore, amended claim 1 defines an invention which is not anticipated by or obvious over Locke et al.

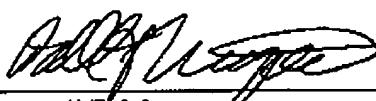
Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sup in view of Rich et al. The Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to provide an access port in Sup as taught by Rich et al to enable one to maintain or to provide additional space for storing contents.

Amended claim 1 defines an access port in a golf bag for providing access through the body of the golf bag to the golf club compartment, the longitudinal stay and the pocket in which the lower end of the stay is received in order to facilitate repairs to the stay and the pocket and in order to retrieve articles that may have fallen into the golf club compartment through the throat structure at the top end of the compartment. Rich et al discloses a golf bag having various zippered pockets such as pockets 46, 48, 52, 54, 56 and 58. As shown in Fig. 8 of Rich et al, these zippered pockets would not provide access to the interior 14 of the Sup golf bag for making repairs to the stay 16 and the pocket 21. Furthermore, the zippered pockets of Rich et al would not permit retrieval of articles that may have fallen into the interior 14 of the Sup golf bag. Therefore, amended claim 1 defines an invention which is not obvious over any combination of Sup and Rich et al.

In view of the preceding remarks, applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4.

Respectfully submitted,

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